



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/329,258 06/10/99 BUECHER K 076397/0124

FOLEY AND LARDNER
3000 K STREET NW SUITE 500
WASHINGTON DC 20007-5109

IM52/0828

EXAMINER

FORTUNA, A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1723
DATE MAILED:

08/28/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/329,258

Applicant(s)

Buecher et al.

Examiner

First Last

Art Unit

1234

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 14, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 7-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 15-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1723

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 15-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmidt et al.(5,562,827) (equivalent to WO 95/05889 of record) in view of McDermott, Jr. et al (5,147,541)(‘541). Reference ‘827 discloses the spiral wound or membrane assembly including the core, membrane and sheath surrounding the membrane element and core, and comprising a polymer cord, lamina or fabric made of heat resistant material (abstract, Fig. 1, column 2, lines 1-43). Regarding claim 1, reference ‘827 fails to disclose fusing the membrane in the area of overlap. Reference (‘541) discloses the spiral wound membrane module having the core and sheath, the sheath is formed from polymer film or membrane which overlap one another, and have been fused to one another in the sealed or overlapped area (abstract, figure 3, column 5, lines 63-68, column 6, lines 1-30). Reference ‘541 discloses providing a folded membrane film with a spacer between the two membrane films and applying heat and pressure to fuse the membrane and spacer or backing material in the area of fold and also fusing in the area of aligned ends is also disclosed (column 6, lines 31-57). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the

Art Unit: 1723

art at the time the invention was made to provide the module of reference '827 with the membranes sealed to the core and fused at the sealed edge, as disclosed in '541), e.g. to hold the membrane in place in the wound module configuration. Regarding claim 2, the sheath made of polyester and polypropylene is disclosed in '827 (column 2, lines 1-16, column 6, lines 3-8). As to claim 3, the sheath having a functionalized surface (as defined is disclosed), e.g. a polyalkylene surface (melting surface). Regarding claim 4, the sheath as an extruded network is disclosed (column 2, second paragraph). Regarding claims 5-6, the composite sheath and the materials having the inherent melting points are disclosed, e.g polyester, polypropylene, etc. As to claims 15-20, the membrane configuration is disclosed by '541. As to claims 21-26, the spiral wound membrane module further having the sheath thickness claimed is disclosed in '827, e.g. Cord diameter of about 0.8 to 2 mm (column 2, first paragraph). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to select conventional spiral wound configuration for the assembly and further improve the membrane sterilization and heat treatment. Making the module of heat resistant material, e.g. membrane, core, and spacers and sheath (column 2, second paragraph).

3. Claims 7-9 have not been treated on the merits, because they are part of the non-elected invention directed to the process of making the assembly.

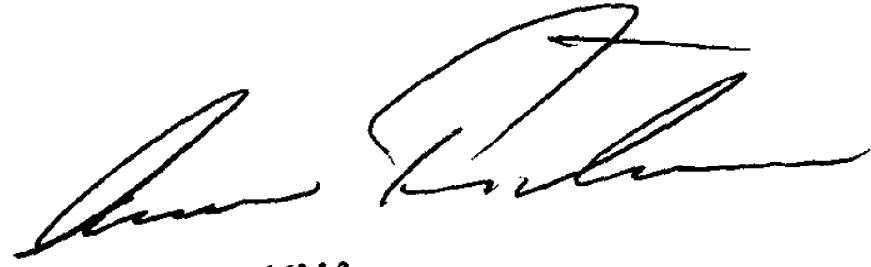
Art Unit: 1723

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ana Fortuna whose telephone number is (703) 308-3857. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker, can be reached on (703) 308-0457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310 for regular responses, and (703)872-9311 for after finals.

Ana Fortuna

August 27, 2001



ANA FORTUNA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Ana Fortuna